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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Sustainable Development
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Other matters

Draft proposals submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. George Talbot (Guyana)

Draft decision I

Proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001

The Commission on Sustainable Development takes note of the proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001,[1] and requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, in their deliberations on the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, to take into account, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly that will carry out the comprehensive review of progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme for Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

[1] E/CN.17/1999/CRP.1.

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Draft decision II

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Decides, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63 of 25 July 1997 on the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002 and future methods of work of the Commission, that in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its eighth session, the 2000 sessions of its inter-sessional ad hoc working groups will be devoted to the following issues:

(i) Integrated planning and management of land resources; and agriculture;

(ii) Financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth.

(b) Also decides, in accordance with paragraph 133 of the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21, that the Bureau of the Commission shall continue conducting transparent and open-ended consultations in a timely manner on matters related to preparations for the eighth session of the Commission and the sessions of its inter-sessional ad hoc working groups.

(c) Reiterates that, in order to enable the Bureau to carry out its functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing appropriate financial support, through extrabudgetary contributions, to members of the Bureau, particularly those from the developing countries, to enable them to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, in the inter-sessional meetings of the Commission and in the sessions of the Commission itself.

Draft resolution on voluntary initiatives and agreements

The Commission on Sustainable Development:

Recalling the interactive dialogue that took place between Governments, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in the industry segment organized during its sixth session in 1998[1] and its decision 6/2 regarding the "potential value of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the inter-sessional consultative process convened in Toronto, Canada, in March 1999, involving representatives of industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and Governments, aimed at identifying elements of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements launched in follow-up to its decision 6/2 in 1998;

2. *Reiterates* the value of multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable development, and encourages their further use both in future work on voluntary initiatives and agreements and in other sustainable development issues;

3. *Encourages* the stakeholder groups, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, to continue generating information about voluntary initiatives and agreements, including the most appropriate means for possible reviews, and to make this information widely available, and requests its secretariat to facilitate these efforts, *inter alia*, through its Internet site;

4. *Stresses* the need for better understanding of the possible impact of voluntary initiatives and agreements on developing countries, and requests the various stakeholders to report periodically, through the Commission's secretariat, on steps they have taken or progress they have made in assisting developing countries to understand and make use of, as appropriate, the lessons to be learned from the use of voluntary initiatives and agreements;

5. *Takes note* of the commitments to future action made by the various stakeholders at the Toronto meeting, and encourages further dialogue among the stakeholders on information products that may assist countries and interested organizations in understanding the uses and value of voluntary initiatives and agreements in the context of sustainable development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to periodically report to the Commission on the progress and developments in this area.

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. II.
[2] E/CN.17/1999/12.